10: Legio 8-4 (no date) 1932 ED1 Rumania ED1
Transylvania
Dobrudja

would obtain equal grants, while officials would be nominated proportionately to the numbers of each nationality.

Count Bethlen, however, desired to justify the millions spent on the revisionist campaign and demanded the revision of frontiers, namely the retrocession of the Hungarian towns bordering on the frontier (Arad, Oradea-Mare, and Satu Mare). The advisers of King Carol considered that the present frontiers of Rumania were final, and in order that the idea of a personal union be rendered acceptable to the Rumanian people, all reference to a revision of frontiers should be dropped as it was sure to provoke a fiasco, all the more so since the Liberal party was known to be hostile to the idea of a personal union. The Rumanians would accept the scheme only in case Hungary agreed to recognize the actual frontiers without rectification and in exchange for the other concessions. It was on this point that the negotiations came to a standstill. Count Bethlen was bound by engagements towards the revisionist group. According to his conception, only Transylvania was to remain under Rumanian rule as a Duchy, while other parts were to revert to Hungary."

In conclusion the paper stated that "the interview left painful recollections with Count Bethlen who now talks of an alliance with Italy and Austria."

The Dobrudja.

If the state of the minorities in Transylvania may be stated to be relatively satisfactory, taking into consideration the general shortcomings of the Rumanian administrative system, it is to be regretted that as much cannot be said of the Dobrudja, where both the Turkish and Bulgarian minorities, living in compact masses, have well-founded grievances. One of the main causes of dissatisfaction has been the ill-considered plan of the Rumanian Government to colonize southern Dobrudja with Kutso-Vlachs from Macedonia. Without making any adequate preparations to provide these people with dwellings, food and clothing, it proceeded to billet them in the small cottages of the Bulgarian and Turkish farmers which were barely sufficient for their owners. The newcomers being destitute, had no alternative to that of

10: Logio S-4 (no date) 1932 ED1 Rumania ED1
Dobrudja

563
166
657
647

a life of rapine, a matter which led to bloody encounters followed by mass arrests of the local population. The latter had been further embittered by the State seizing one-third of their lands, no compensation whatever being given, even in cases of these lands carrying growing crops. Such was the tension that had been created that on the advent of the Maniu government, both M. M. Vaida-Voevod and Mihalache considered it imperative to intervene in order to put a stop to the abuses and the provocations that both Turks and Bulgarians were subjected to. The intercession of the leaders of the National Peasant Party caused extreme ill-feeling in Chauvinist circles which fomented a violent agitation against what was represented as treachery to the Rumanians. This culminated in the assassination of an under-secretary of State by a hot-headed student. The Maniu government had delegated a commission to study on the spot the complaints of the population of the Dobrudja and prepare a report, a summary of which was published in the "Adeverul" of March 4th, 1929. In this we read that "the enterprise of colonizing the Dobrudja had been left without control and had become a means of exploitation and the furthering of personal interests," that the system of quartering the colonists on the Bulgarian and Turkish inhabitants "led to an unbearable state of affairs causing endless conflicts." As for the situation of the colonists, the report shows that the ineptitude of the Rumanian authorities transcends all imagination, "out of 10,000 heads of families only 15 had received monetary help from the government, the lands that were to be allotted to the colonists remained in possession of State functionaries. The colonists had no houses nor timber wherewith to construct them." As a consequence of this report the Maniu Government created a special commissariat for building houses for the colonists, 1,257 of which were built in 1929, 938 during 1930, and 1,200 in the course of 1931, at an average cost of 44,000 lei each.

The situation, unfortunately has not improved, and murders of Turks and Bulgarians by the Kutso-Vlachs are frequent. What is most regrettable is that they are left practically unpunished, as has been the case with the murderer of one of the leaders of the Bulgarian minority, the

late C. M. Stephanov, who was also a member of the Rumanian Senate. The main cause of the effervescence that still subsists is this ill-advised scheme of planting the destitute Kutso-Vlachs on the farms of the aboriginal inhabitants, proof of which has been given by M. Georoceanu in a booklet he has published. M. Georoceanu was formerly a member of the Rumanian Senate during M. Maniu's tenure of office.

It may be added that the Bulgarians complain of not having a single school in their villages, and that when they presented petitions for opening such their signatories had been prosecuted. Bulgarian priests are no longer allowed to be nominated, and those that still remain are being gradually replaced by Rumanians who officiate naturally in their own language which is not understood by their flocks. A lesser wrong which receives the condemnation only of the intellectuals, is the ban on Bulgarian newspapers and periodicals. Their introduction into Rumania is prohibited, and though a few months ago the Bucarest press announced that this embargo would be raised, yet as late as April, 1932 the police authorities in the Dobrudja had received no intimation of this commendable measure. It is obvious that all these grievances could easily be removed with a little goodwill on the part of the Rumanian government, and to the westerner it is incomprehensible that the latter should make no effort to safeguard the happiness of hundreds of thousands of human beings whose destiny has been entrusted to its hands. For it is not only the elementary duty of a government to care for its subjects, but in this case even political reasons dictate the following of a more humane and civilized policy. The bulk of the population being Bulgarian, and having for forty years enjoyed an independent existence, is utterly unaccustomed to such maladministration as it is now experiencing. It is therefore natural that it should be soliciting the intercession of the Bulgarian government under whose suzerainty it lived until recently. This is a course that creates friction between the two governments, keeps open an old sore, and embitters and strains relations between Bulgaria and Rumania. The former country would incur every sacrifice in order to ensure Rumania's friendship, and

10: Logio 3-4 (no date) 1932 ED1 Rumania ED1

it is most regrettable that Rumania, on account of this constitutional impassibility from which she suffers, should neglect the accomplishment of a simple duty that would simultaneously ensure the pacification of a province and the friendship of a neighbouring State. Even Sir Ian Hamilton in one of his books extended this advice to Rumania: "If she values her life let her make it up with Bulgaria whilst she is in the gate." (The Friends of England, p. 130). But so far this soldierly exhortation has not been heeded.

Bessarabia.

"Twelve years of Rumanian rule has alienated Bessarabia more than a century of Russian administration," declared Constantine Stere, the veteran Bessarabian politician who may be considered as the mouthpiece of the population of that hapless region. If one wishes indeed, to form an idea of what the combined evils of corruption, ineptitude, nepotism, and inefficiency can bring upon a land he should visit Bessarabia. It is a standing disgrace, a festering sore, a danger point that will cause a fresh conflagration the moment the Russians across the Dniester can divert their attention from their economic plans to engage in world politics. Such is the desperation of the local population, their utter aversion to Rumanian misrule, the pessimism with which they regard every scheme emanating from Bucarest, that if the Russians would decide to cross the Dniester they would be hailed as liberators.

Not that the Bessarabians cherish any particular affection for the Russians and for communistic dogmas, but because there is after all a limit to human endurance to evils arising from such glaring maladministration. There is no hope for any amelioration; the Bucarest administration has demonstrated its incapacity to reform itself, and the only hope there may be of placating Bessarabia is the granting of a regional autonomy that may save her from casting longing glances at Bolshevik Russia across the Dniester. As the writer does not wish to be accused of exaggeration or of being imbued with unfriendly feelings towards Rumania, he will proceed to give a description of the position in Bessarabia by an interpolation of various excerpts culled from newspapers that he

647 could be dismissed without the working of the administra-
652 tive machine being impaired in any way, and several instances are given of the plethora of officials. M. Bratanescu, deputy for Tighina, for example, pointed out in the Chamber that in his town, with a population of 31,698, there were 130 teachers, but as there were not enough children for each to have a full class, whenever an inspector came down, each teacher used to borrow children from the other classes in order to complete the number of his own so that he might escape being reprimanded by the inspector.

652 Another head on which various economies could be
657 effected is pensions, which absorb about one-fifth of the total revenue, and many of which are served out to people who have not the slightest justification for drawing them. The tendency to spend overmuch for the upkeep of the social services is a characteristic trait of Rumania and was noticed and commented on many years ago by one of her distinguished social writers, M. C. Dobrogeanu-Gherea, in his work "Neoiobăgia." Referring to the period 1910–1911, he pointed out that the State budget and those of the communes absorbed over one-third of the national revenue, and what remained for the subsistence of the population amounted to 123 gold lei per head, or almost 4,000 lei, a figure closely approximating to the 3,955 lei which, according to the calculations given above, represented the net income per head for
647 1930. The above-cited writer condemned very caustically
652 the profligate methods of the administration as likely to bring the State to ruin:

"By withdrawing annually from production these big sums and lavishing them on a parasitic bureaucracy, the State sets the example of a mad waste . . . by letting the bureaucracy spend extravagantly what the other classes create by hard toil, people form the illusion that this country is very prosperous and that it is easy to live in it comfortably. . . . This hypertrophy of the State organism is one of the most pernicious sicknesses which attack modern societies." (p. 455.)

647 It is indeed a great pity that no political party ever en-
651 deavoured to tackle the problem of thoroughly overhauling the administrative machine of the country, but that instead